

MATT
GROENING

MATT
GROENING

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NEWSPAPER INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**



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NEW GREEN ? ? ? ? S.



JUNK



MAIL

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We want your mail. No, not your unpaid bills. We want you to fill this page every issue. So let us know what you liked, and what you didn't, in this, our premiere issue. If you have any big ideas, let us hear them. We're going to keep at it until everybody is happy! We'll even take a look at your artwork, poems (now that's *really* special!) and practically anything else you send us. The possibilities are endless. So write!

FARM FROLICS

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find several shots of the official Bart Simpson scarecrow, winner of First Place and Best of Show at the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Petaluma, California, June 1990. I built the scarecrow after the bright idea hit

me that Bart Simpson was the man of the hour and would appeal to fairgoers of every age. The rules state that the scarecrows have to be constructed of traditional scarecrow materials (straw, old clothes, things lying around the farm) and they have to aim to scare crows. It followed that Bart's hair could be a straw broom, as that is what it looks like anyway. And those eyeballs (in this case, L'eggs stocking containers) are weird and scary, and the slingshot bodes badly for the birds. Bart always has to write something a hundred times on the blackboard in the beginning of every episode (we hate it if we miss the beginning and don't see what he has to write this time), so it followed that he could get his message across with chalk, man.

Good luck in this new *Simpsons Illustrated* magazine endeavor.

—Perry Walker Freeman
Petaluma, CA

UNCARVED BLOCKHEADS

Dear Editor,

This letter is in appreciation of last Thursday's *Simpsons* episode. I was delighted at the mention of the *Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu. The last place I would expect to hear a reference to Taoism would be in a cartoon. I am currently taking a class on Taoism at California State University of Northridge. The show was all we could talk about before class.

I was glad it was Lisa who knew



Perry Walker Freeman, Petaluma, CA

about the *Tao Te Ching* since she is the character I identify with most. I have to correct Lisa, though: the "Uncarved Block" is wood, not stone. If it was stone it would be the "unchiseled block."

Maybe the reference will get some young viewers interested in Taoism. I would recommend the *Tao of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff to any young person, even Bart. It explains the basics of Taoism through another cartoon character: Pooh.

—Nicole Muraoka
Northridge, CA



David Peters
Irvine, CA

Out Of Control!



KOOSH
KINS

Catch Them If You Can.

IN THE NEWS



OUR MOTTO: "TRUTH IS WEIRDER THAN FICTION"

AP—WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



DON'T HAVE A COW, MOM: Jerry Field, 19, gets his Bart Simpson cut shaped by Bob Greguras at Elmo's Hair Design and Barber Shop in Ketchikan, Alaska. The cut is outlined every three days and trimmed and bleached every two weeks.

DO YOU THINK THEY WATCH ALL OF SEAN'S FILMS AT PENN STATE?

You're not going to believe this, but at **Simpson College** in Indianola, Iowa, they watch *The Simpsons*.

Just to prove it, the student newspaper assigned staff writer Ann Wagner the task of measuring students' views of the show.

Sean Grant said Bart was his favorite character, adding: "He's just a real-life kid. He's not like one of those Wally Cleaver kids."

Joelle Selk said: "They have sick humor and I love that."

THE BANANA IS NOT A FRUIT; IT'S AN HEUR

And Robin Hinshaw said: "One time I had my Simpson College coat on and someone asked me if it was a real college or a take-off from the show."

Well, which is it?
—*The Simpsonian*

HEY, DOC — YOU ANY RELATION TO HOMER SIMPSON DOWN AT THE NUKE PLANT?

You probably saw this in "The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists," but **Dr. John Simpson** wrote in a recent issue: "The fragmentation of the Soviet Union may confront the world with

a new problem: ensuring that none of the new states which could emerge possess nuclear weapons and that they will rapidly join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Sorry man, we're not confronting any new problems until sometime in November.

MAYBE A DIFFERENT HAIRCUT WOULD HAVE HELPED

Bart Simpson of San Antonio, Texas, is a political underachiever.

Running as a Republican candidate for the Texas State legislature in heavily Democratic Bexar County, Simpson was creamed by Leticia Van de Putte, 71 percent to 25 percent. Hey, at least he beat the Libertarian candidate.

Despite his pathetic showing, Bart took the best verbal shot of the campaign when someone asked him if his name would help him get votes.

He said: "It may be worth a few extra votes, and it may not. After all, my opponent's name is not so great either."

Now, that's the Bart Simpson we know.

—*People; San Antonio Express-News*

ART IMITATES DEATH

Lt. Don Bartling (Bartling!) was one of four Fort Lauderdale, Fla. fire

OR LONG ENOUGH TO WATCH YOUR FAVORITE EPISODE OF THE SIMPSONS 438,000,000 TIMES

According to recent reports, the town of Pripyat, near the sight of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, will be uninhabitable for 25,000 years. That's roughly as long as humans have lived in North America.

BY THE TIME YOU ARE 70 YEARS OLD YOU WILL HAVE GAINED 40 POUNDS OF DEAD SKIN. MORE IF YOU SKATEBOARD.

OLIVES AND TOMATOES ARE FRUIT

fighters called to the Mercedes City Center in January to revive a woman in the lobby of the Museum of Art.

Bartling said: "We got down there and the security guard showed us where she was, right inside the window."

What they saw was a gray-haired woman with glasses, wearing a pink beach hat, pink T-shirt, pink and black shorts and white tennis shoes. She was sitting in a black metal chair, reading a magazine. Some books were scattered at her feet.

Bartling said: "After a while, we could see that she wasn't breathing."

It was about this time they realized they were staring at an exhibit by surrealist sculptor Duane Hanson. —Associated Press

BOOK 'EM, BARTO!

Since January 7, they've been sleeping soundly in California's Yolo

County, near Sacramento.

That's the day **Bart Simpson** became the new undersheriff.

And not a heartbeat too soon, after they'd thrown the former sheriff and undersheriff in jail for taking a \$3,000 bribe to fudge on crime statistics so that a developer could get permission for a big project in the area.

Simpson served in the Sheriff's Department from 1972-87, as a jail supervisor, patrol sergeant and investigations sergeant.

Reached by us just before he was sworn in, a determined Bart said: "If they think the cartoon dork Bart Simpson is coming in here and they laugh, that's one thing. But the folks here have been laughed at enough. We want to begin this sheriff's administration on a good note."

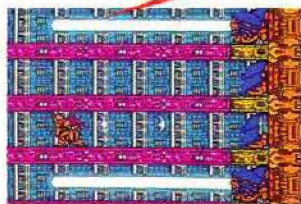
Okay, but watch who you call a dork, man!

—Davis Enterprise; Bart Simpson

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SIMPSON'S ILLUSTRATED (ISSN 1054-8491) is published quarterly by Welsh Publishing Group, Inc., 300 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Basic subscription price: 1 year \$10.00 in U.S. and possessions. For subscription inquiries, kindly contact our Customer Service Department at (515) 247-7500 or write to: SIMPSON'S ILLUSTRATED, P.O. Box 10598, Des Moines, IA 50340. In Canada, one year \$13.91 (price includes \$3.00 for postage and \$0.91 for GST tax). Non-resident GST registration # is R127388924. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. Issue 1. Postmaster: Send address changes to Simpsons Illustrated, P.O. Box 10598, Des Moines, IA 50340.

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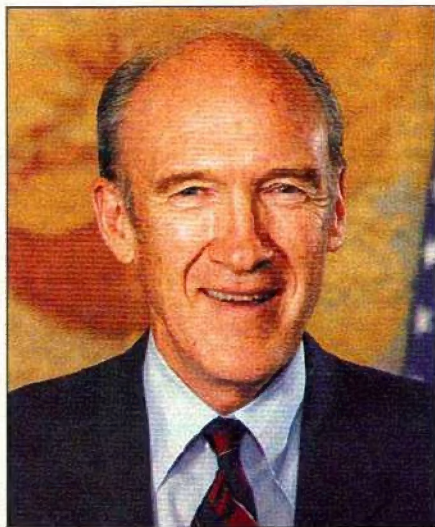
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Sen. Alan Simpson (left) and Homer Simpson: separated at birth?

MR. SIMPSON GOES TO WASHINGTON

How do you figure the most Homer-looking guy in the United States Senate, **Alan Simpson** (R. Wyoming)?

Does the ranking member of the Senate Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation watch *The Simpsons*? Noooo. Some lame excuse about votes to cast, arms to twist. Gotta meet the press, gotta tape *Nightline*, gotta go on *MacNeil-Lehrer*.

It took Senator **Ted Kennedy** (D. Massachusetts) to remind Simpson of his family ties.

At a roast for Simpson in Wyoming, Kennedy said in a videotaped greeting: "Uh, Homer...I mean, Al...recently there was a TV show, *The Kennedys of Massachusetts*. Maybe someday they'll make 'The Simpsons of Wyoming.'"

Then, taking off his jacket to reveal a Bart sweatshirt, Kennedy said: "But Al, the Simpsons *do* have their own show...."

—Sen. Simpson's staff

HEY JUICE, WHY NOT LAY THE BLAME ON THE DOORSTEP OF A REPRESSIVE, OVERLY-JUDGMENTAL EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT?

Long before Bart, there was **O.J. Simpson**, the Pro Football Hall of

Fame running back who's now an actor and an NBC-TV commentator on NFL games.

The Juice on Bart: "I totally enjoy the show," says O.J. "Especially the part at the beginning where Bart has to write on the blackboard."

So, Juice, are you saying you can relate to the little guy?

"Oh, yeah. My mother had to come to school more than once. In fact, when I was about Bart's age I had my share of suspensions."

—O.J. Simpson

JUST WAIT 'TIL THE DUFF BEER POLL, MAN

What do Bart Simpson, President Bush, Ivana Trump, Donald Trump, Madonna, Pope John Paul II, Andrew Dice Clay, Tom Cruise, Mother Teresa and Woody Allen have in common?

None of them could measure up to first lady

Barbara Bush, the winner of last November's J&B Scotch "Over Dinner Poll," which asked 1,000 Americans to name their top three dining companions.

If it's any consolation, the little dude who's crude when he shovels his food scored highest among the also-rans.

Maybe next November, Bart.
—J&B Scotch

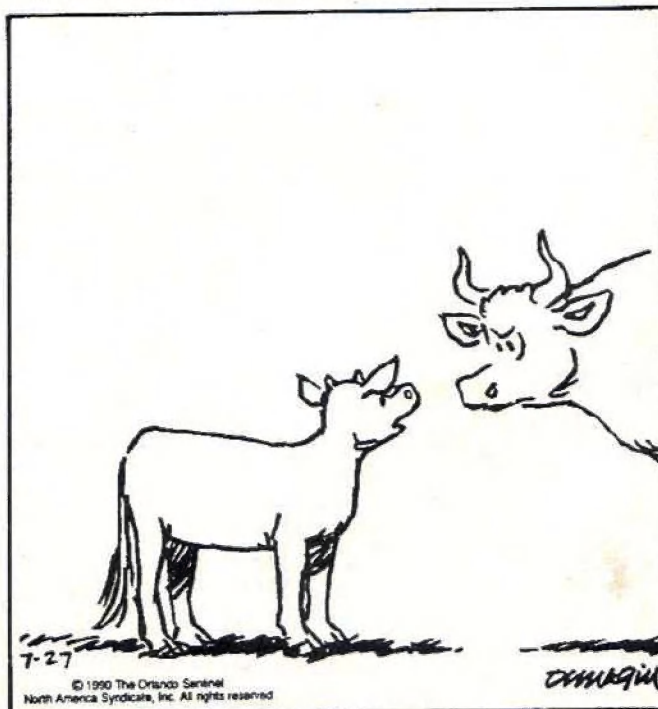
WATCH FOR IT ON YOUR CAFETERIA MENU

The ingredients of sliced head cheese: pork tongues, pork snouts, water, salt, gelatin, flavorings, sugar, sodium phosphates, sodium erythorbate, sodium nitrate.

HAVE A COW, MAN!

According to Montana Agricultural Statistics, this year started off with 2.5 million head of cattle in the state. The state's human population lags behind at 805,000 says the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE



"HEY, DON'T HAVE A BART SIMPSON, OKAY?"

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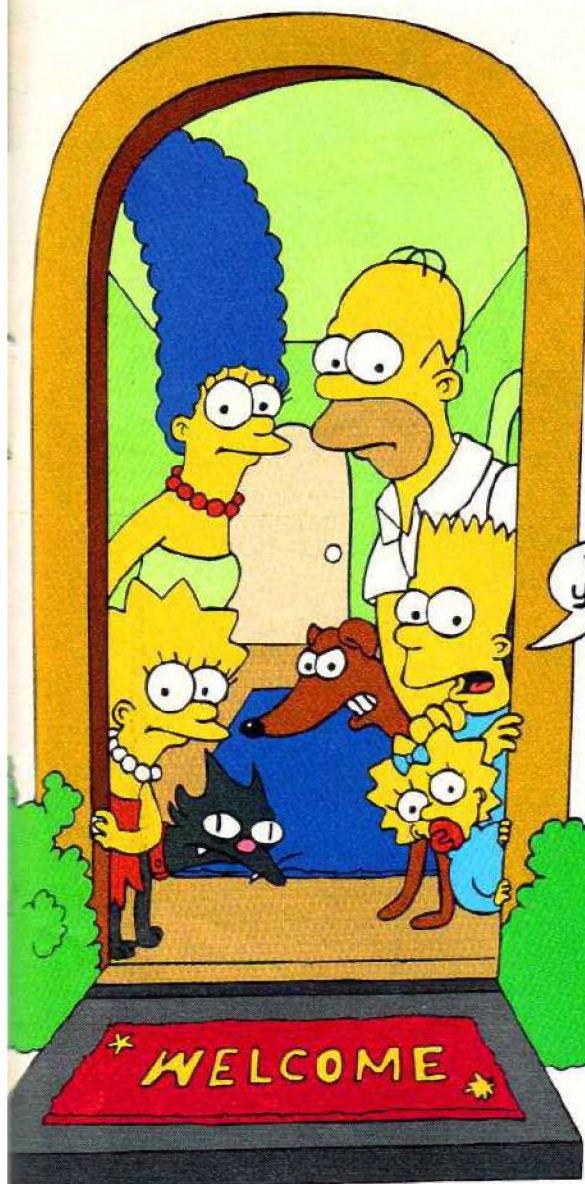
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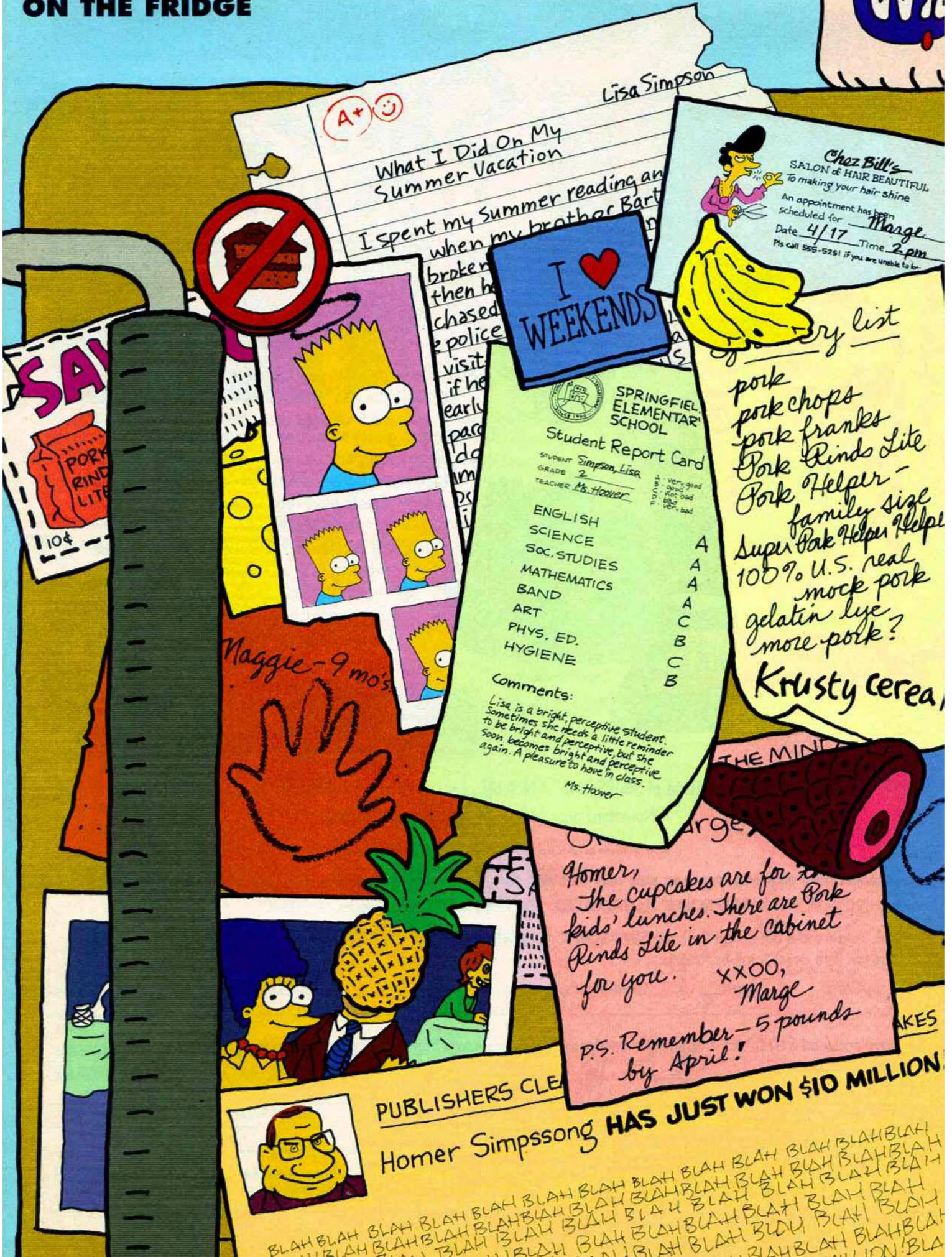
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**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL:
ON THE FRIDGE**





SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March 3, 1991

Dear Mrs. Simpson,

I regret to inform you that your son Bart interrupted class today with a long, loud and resonant belch. Although the four-second outburst managed to amuse some of my less-motivated students, I can assure you that I was not amused by such an animalistic lack of self-restraint.

The human body is a beautiful machine, finely tuned to the mysterious specifications of nature. It is not a "sound-effects" toy to be manipulated at our every whim. I kindly ask that you remind your son of that simple fact.

If you have any questions, please hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Krabappel
Mrs. Krabappel



"For crying what will th

Homer, Annie,?"

Easter Ham w/ oysters



Happy Holidays!

Have a great 1987!

The Flanders Clan

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Ignorance
is
Bliss.



Man who goes to sleep with apes
wakes up with apes.

To the Best Mom in the whole house!
Happy Valentine's Day!
from Bart

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YEAH, YEAH!**



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SIMPSONS BRAIN-BUSTING TRIVIA QUIZ

1. The Simpsons first appeared on...

- A. *The Liv Ullman Show*
- B. *The Tracey Ullman Show*
- C. *The Trace That Almond Show*
- D. *Meet The Press*

2. If spelled out, Homer's typical annoyed grunt would be...

- A. D'oh!
- B. Gleeeeeep!
- C. Nagada-nagada-nagada!
- D. Yabbadabbadoo!

3. Marge's older twin sisters are named...

- A. Big Bertha and Little Bertha
- B. Big Bertha and Bigger Bertha
- C. Patty and Selma
- D. Betty and Veronica

4. Bart's hero is...

- A. Krusty the Clown
- B. Curly Howard of the Three Stooges
- C. Himself
- D. Ted Koppel

5. Lisa's saxophone-playing mentor is...

- A. "Warts" Mulrooney
- B. "Post Nasal Drip" O'Toole
- C. "Bleeding Gums" Murphy
- D. "Eczema" Jones

6. Maggie wouldn't be Maggie without her...

- A. Security blanket
- B. Pacifier
- C. Teddy bear
- D. Copy of Susan Sontag's book *Against Interpretation*

7. Principal Skinner's childhood nickname was...

- A. Stinky
- B. Spanky
- C. Sprinkles
- D. Mulehead

8. Marge's bowling ball was named...

- A. Mr. Bowling Ball
- B. Globe of Fury
- C. Homer
- D. Snowball III

9. What catch phrase is Krusty the Clown least likely to use?

- A. "Buy my cereal!"
- B. "Don't blame me! I didn't do it!"
- C. "Who do you love?"
- D. "I'd like to recite one of my favorite love poems by Tennyson."

10. Krusty the Clown's pro-literacy slogan is...

- A. Give a hoot! Read a book!
- B. I plead for you to read, indeed!
- C. Books: They're not as boring as you think!
- D. Shut up and read, kids!

11. Who was driving the car that ran over Bart?

- A. Otto the bus driver
- B. Lisa
- C. Mr. Burns
- D. Bill Cosby

12. Bart's teacher is named...

- A. Ms. Snarlberry
- B. Ms. Screamanyell
- C. Ms. Krabappel
- D. Ms. Nice

13. Homer's middle initial is...

- A. Q.
- B. Z.
- C. F.
- D. J.

14. Bart's full name is...

- A. Bartholomew Jebediah Simpson
- B. Bartholomew Jo-Jo Simpson
- C. Bartholomew Jinx Simpson
- D. Bartholomew Jumbo Simpson

15. Lisa enjoys the pint-size cartoon characters known as...

- A. The Happy Little Elves
- B. The Delirious Little Pixies
- C. The Ecstatic Little Gnomes
- D. The Irresponsible Little Imps

16. Bart enjoys the violent animated antics of...

- A. Goofus and Gallant
- B. Creepy and Crawly
- C. Itchy and Scratchy
- D. Chewy and Swallowy

17. According to Herman, the military antiques dealer, he lost his arm...

- A. When he stuck it out the schoolbus window
- B. When he stuck it in the ball return chute at Barney's Bowl-a-Rama
- C. When he tried to retrieve his golfball from inside the windmill at Sir Putt-a-Lot's Miniature Golf Course
- D. When he shook the sleeping gator at the Springfield Gator Farm

18. When the Simpsons went to Dr. Marvin Monroe for family therapy, he had them hit each other with...

- A. Wet noodles
- B. Dry noodles
- C. Patented therapeutic foam-covered aggression mallets
- D. Ball peen hammers

Continued on p. 36

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19. The name of the local baseball team is...

- A. The Springfield Isotopes
- B. The Springfield Meltdowns
- C. The Springfield Molten Fuel Rods
- D. The Springfield Patty Melts

20. What did Bart catch at the Ol' Fishin' Hole?

- A. A radioactive boot
- B. A three-eyed fish
- C. A five-eyed frog
- D. A communicable disease

21. What is Marge's full first name?

- A. Marjorie
- B. Marjorita
- C. Marjolani
- D. Margarine

22. Who is the mayor of Springfield?

- A. Jebediah Springfield
- B. Diamond Joe Quimby
- C. Snowball II
- D. "Bleeding Gums" Murphy

23. Which video arcade game does Bart play?

- A. Escape from Grandma's House
- B. Let's Shoot Everybody
- C. The Happy Little Elves Play Friendly
- D. Quarter Eater

24. Bart's favorite cereal is...

- A. Frosty Krusty Flakes
- B. Tasty Toasty Flakes
- C. Dusty Zesty Flakes
- D. Nasty Musty Flakes

25. What does Bart spray paint all over town?

- A. El Barto
- B. The Cute Li'l Vandal Was Here
- C. I Scoff at Your Petty Bourgeois Ideals
- D. #&\$%@!!!

26. In the opening credits of the show, what magazine is Marge reading in the grocery store?

- A. Mom Monthly
- B. Semi-Good Housekeeping
- C. Hunk o' the Month Magazine
- D. Freakish Hairdos Illustrated

27. Sideshow Bob's replacement on the "Krusty the Clown Show" is...

- A. Sideshow Homer
- B. Sideshow Mel
- C. Sideshow Smithers
- D. Sideshow Bob Jr.

28. Who did Maggie make friends with when the Simpsons got lost in the woods?

- A. Wild bears
- B. Wild boars
- C. Wild bees
- D. Wild weasels

29. What did Maggie do to Homer after she watched some Itchy and Scratchy cartoons?

- A. She hit him on the head with a mallet
- B. She painted a picture of a tunnel on a big rock and had Homer run into it
- C. She dropped an anvil on his head
- D. She mowed him down with a machine gun

30. What is the name of the clerk at the Kwik-E-Mart?

- A. Apu
- B. Popo
- C. Peppy
- D. Alpo

31. Which of the following phony names has Bart not used when making prank phone calls to Moe's Tavern?

- A. Al Coholic
- B. Mike Rotch
- C. Seymour Butz
- D. Isabelle Ringing

32. What comic book does Bart enjoy most?

- A. Captain Eel
- B. Bulbous Boy
- C. Radioactive Man
- D. Larva Girl

33. What happened to Snowball I?

- A. She was run over by a car
- B. She disappeared down the ball return chute at Barney's Bowl-a-Rama
- C. She disappeared inside the windmill at Sir Putt-a-Lot's Miniature Golf Course
- D. She got her own Saturday morning spin-off cartoon show

34. How many hairs does Homer have on the top of his head?

- A. 7
- B. 13
- C. 2
- D. 0

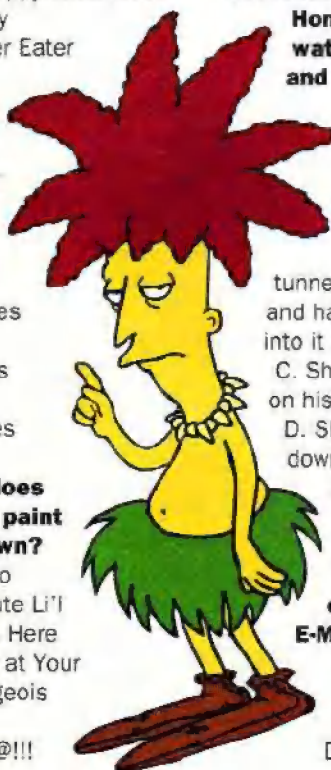
35. Which magazine have the Simpsons not been on the cover of?

- A. Time
- B. Newsweek
- C. TV Guide
- D. Vogue

36. The name of the first Simpsons album is...

- A. The Simpsons Sing Gospel Favorites
- B. The Simpsons Sing the Blues
- C. The Simpsons Sing Fraternity Drinking Songs
- D. The Simpsons Go Surfadelic Freakout, Man

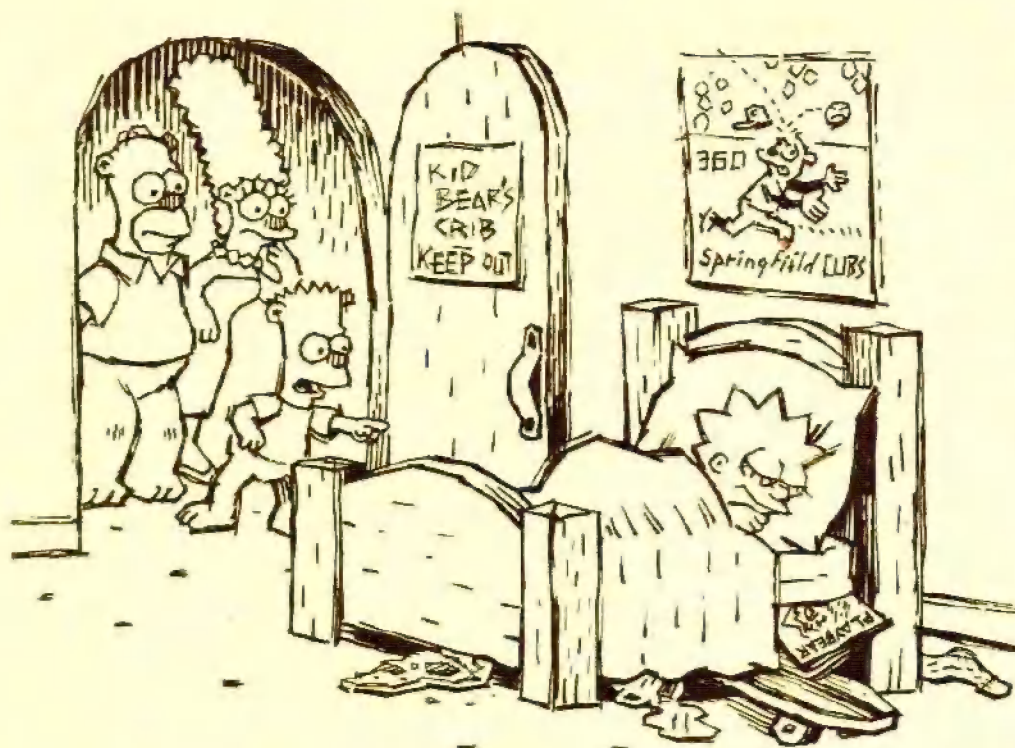
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ANSWERS

1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-A, 5-C, 6-B, 7-B, 8-C, 9-D, 10-A, 11-C, 12-C, 13-D, 14-B, 15-A, 16-C, 17-A, 18-C, 19-A, 20-B, 21-A, 22-B, 23-A, 24-A, 25-A, 26-A, 27-B, 28-A, 29-A, 30-A, 31-D, 32-C, 33-A, 34-C, 35-D, 36-B.

SCORING:
0-5: You apparently bought this magazine by mistake. Sorry, no refunds.
6-11: You have not wasted enough time watching *The Simpsons*.
12-19: You have wasted exactly the right amount of time watching *The Simpsons*.
20-28: You have wasted too much time watching *The Simpsons*.
29-35: You are a true *Simpsons* fanatic—you may wish to seek medical help for this condition.
36 or higher: Wow! You scored as high as Bart Simpson did! You obviously cheated, too.



kid's is just right. At least if you pour enough maple syrup on it.

Soon, staggering under the weight of a tummyful of boiled oats and the beginning of a major sugar buzz, Goldilocks stumbles into the Bears' living room. There she finds—you guessed it—three chairs: a big huge one, a medium-size one and a little itty-bitty one. You kids really dig this repetition stuff, don't you?

Anyway, Goldilocks tries the big one and it's too hard. The medium-

size one is too soft (like that's a problem or something). Of course, the Kid Bear's chair is—all together now—just right.

But what Goldilocks doesn't realize is that this chair has been booby-trapped by the Kid Bear to prevent its use by obnoxious home-invaders. When Goldilocks goes to sit on it, it immediately emits a loud, embarrassing sound. She's been whoopee-cushioned!

Totally mortified, Goldilocks heads up the stairs to the Bears' bedroom where blah blah three beds, blah blah blah too hard, too soft blah blah, and the Kid's bed is just right. She climbs into that one and passes out.

Okay, now here's where it gets good.

The Three Bears return from doing whatever it is that bears do in the woods. They immediately suspect foul play.

"Someone's been eating my porridge!" roars the Papa Bear. "What sort of world is this where a bear can't go out for his morning constitutional without returning home to find his breakfast defiled!"

And then the Mama Bear wails, "Oh, dear! Someone's been eating my porridge, too!"

And then the Kid Bear shouts, "Somebody's been eating my porridge, and they ate it all up! Hallelujah, Mama!"

And then they go into the next room where the chairs are and . . .

Well, let's cut to the chase, all right?

They go upstairs and the Papa Bear says, "Somebody's been sleeping in my bed!" And the Mama Bear says ditto blah blah blah. And then the Kid Bear looks at his bed and what does he see there but this dumb girl—sleeping like a fool in some bears' house!

And so the Kid Bear exclaims, "Hey, look, man—breakfast in bed!"

Goldilocks wakes up just then, but her pitiful cries go unheeded.

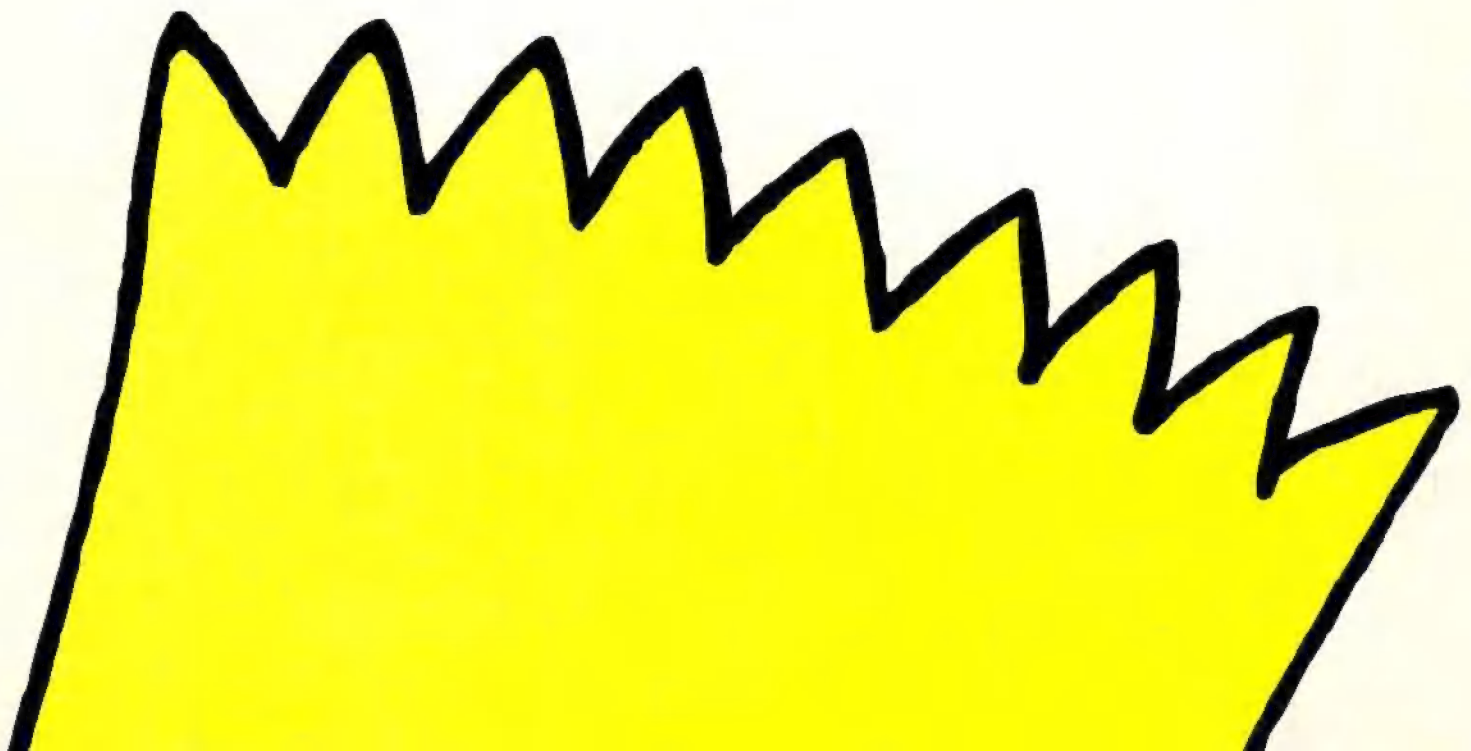
The Three Bears eat her on the spot, and she's just right.

Don't cry, Maggie. It's just a story. It didn't really happen. It's not a docudrama, man. Please don't cry, Maggie. I'm sorry I told you this story. I really am. You've got to stop crying . . . please, Maggie, please. Maggie, if you don't stop crying, I'll tell you *another* bedtime story.

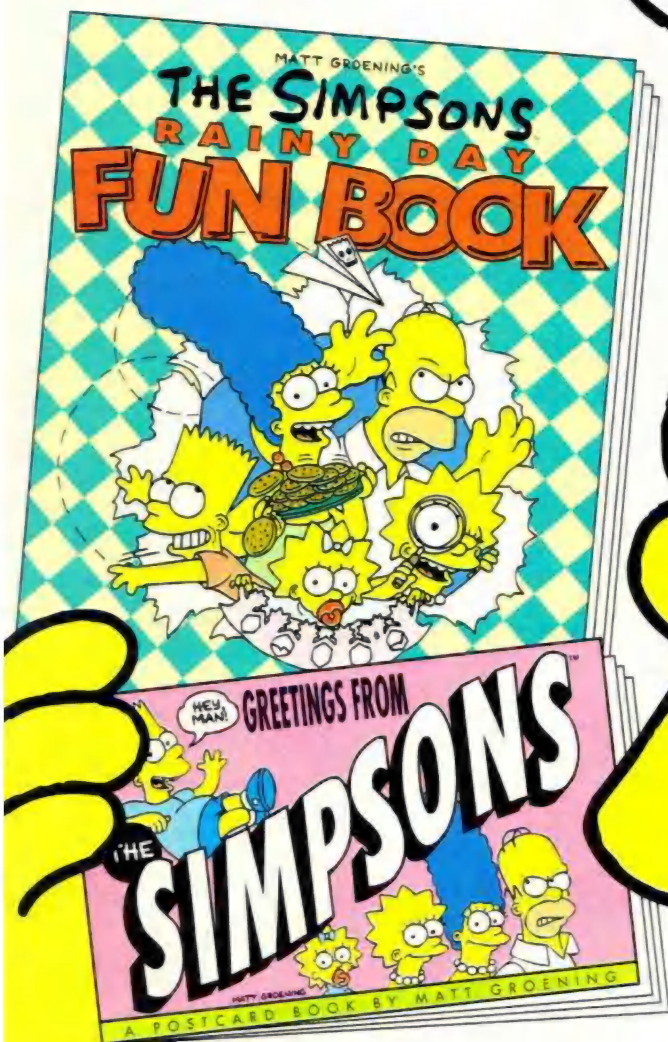
That's better, Maggie.

THE END

Q: WHAT'S YELLOW
AND
READ ALL OVER?



A: SIMPSONS
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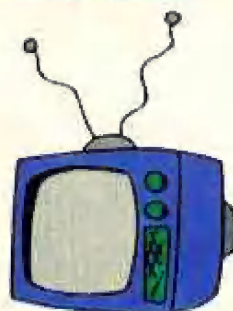
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CAPT. LANCE MURDOCK

A cartoon drawing of a man with a large, prominent nose, wearing glasses and a green shirt. He has a slightly grumpy or skeptical expression.

GRAMPA



A cartoon illustration of a brown dog with large, floppy ears and wide, white eyes with black pupils. The dog has a black nose and a slightly open mouth, giving it a surprised or excited expression. It is wearing a simple brown collar.

A cartoon illustration of a woman with voluminous, curly orange hair. She has large, round glasses with black frames and a yellow face. She is wearing a red vest over a light-colored collared shirt. She has a slight smile and is looking directly at the viewer.A cartoon illustration of a man with a large, dark mustache and round glasses. He has dark hair and is wearing a pink shirt under a dark jacket. He is looking slightly to the left with a neutral expression.

A small, stylized illustration of Marge Simpson, the yellow-skinned character with a large, spiky yellow hairdo, wearing a red dress and a pearl necklace. She is smiling and waving her right hand.

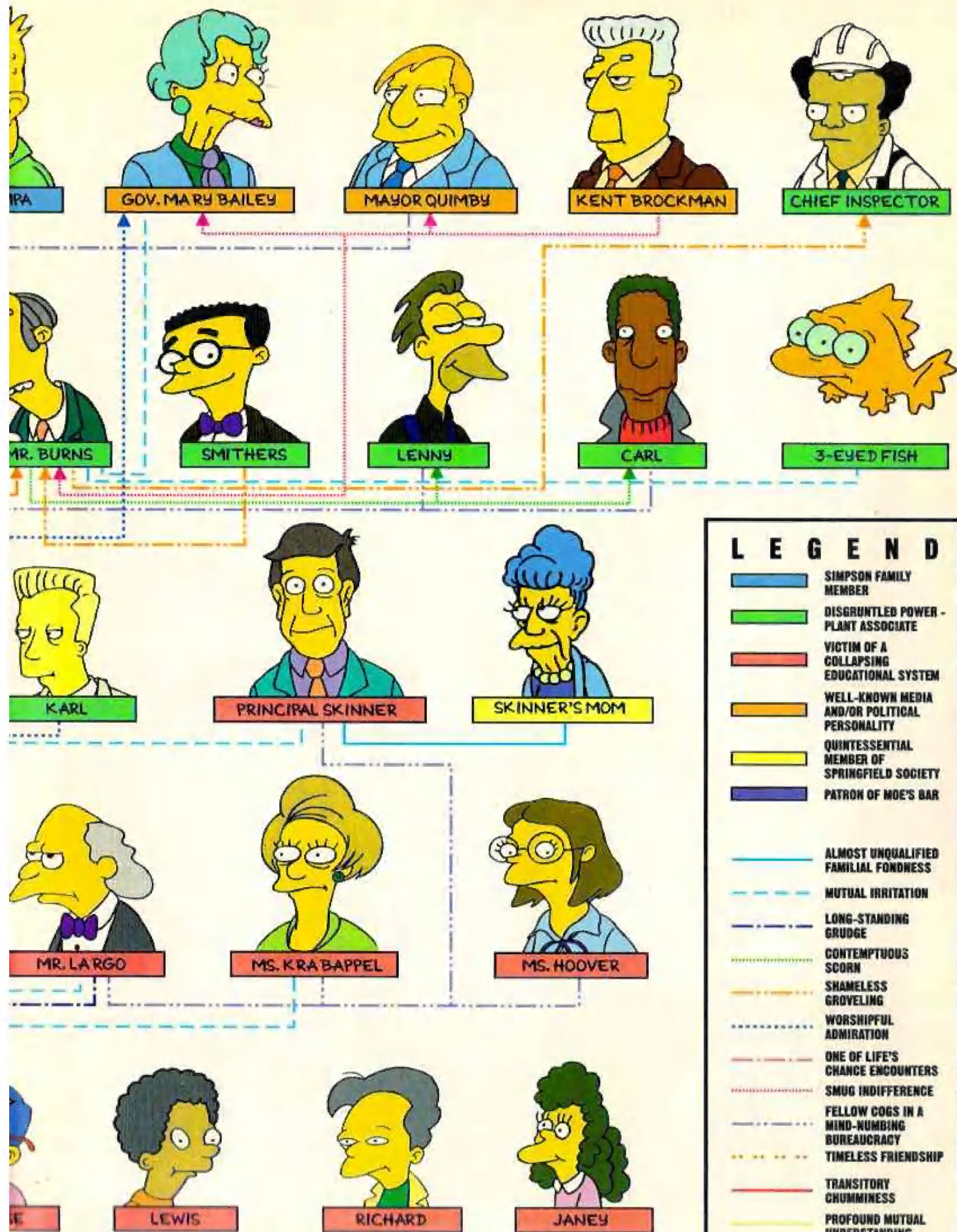


A cartoon drawing of a boy with a grumpy expression. He has brown hair, a large nose, and is wearing a red shirt with a blue backpack strap visible. He is looking slightly to the left with a frown.



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- WORSHIPFUL ADMIRATION
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INSIDERS REVEAL THE SECRET TO SIMPSONS' SUCCESS: "THEY NEVER THINK EVIL THOUGHTS"

You've now reached the part of *Simpsons Illustrated* that really sets it apart from any other magazine. Get ready to go *Behind the Scenes*. We'll take you where no other magazine can or will go. Why? Because we won't let them! We're going to give you the inside scoop on all things 'Simpson' as only we can.

In this first *Behind the Scenes*, we're ripping the lid off the animation process that brings the Simpsons to life. It takes over six months, 100 people and 16,000 drawings to create a new half-hour in the lives of the Simpsons. Among the show's creators are artists who spend all their time making the characters move or drawing the story's settings or painting the finished pictures.

Designing new characters is one of the most important parts of making the show happen, and that's where directors David Silverman and Wes Archer come in. Whenever a new character appears, these guys snap into action, figuring out what he or she will look like from the back, front, top or bottom. They decide which expressions would be appropriate for a character and

An Interview with Animation Directors David Silverman and Wes Archer



Wes and friend.



David deepens his dimples.

which would look out of place. They also oversee the show's pacing and make sure the storyboards are telling the story each week properly, often rolling up their sleeves and drawing layouts, and storyboards themselves.

We caught up with David and Wes in the Los Angeles offices of Klasky-Csupo Animation, where *The Simpsons* is put together.

Simpsons Illustrated: Do you guys walk, talk and breathe *The Simpsons*?

DAVID (In a Homer laugh): Heh-heh-heh. Seriously, it's a really tough job, but really fun. We call it "The Art of Bart."

S: What's your approach to drawing *The Simpsons*?

DAVID: Wes and I like to keep the drawing simple and clear. Animation should never be the star of the story. Good animation tells a story. It shouldn't say "Look how great these drawings are!"

WES: Clear picture composition is really important.

S: How have the characters changed since the show's early days?

DAVID: Bart used to be a total egghead. His first line ever was,



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ORANGY ORANGE
GRAPITY PURPLE
RASPBERRY RED
L --- G --- ?

TURN THE PAGE FOR A TIP.

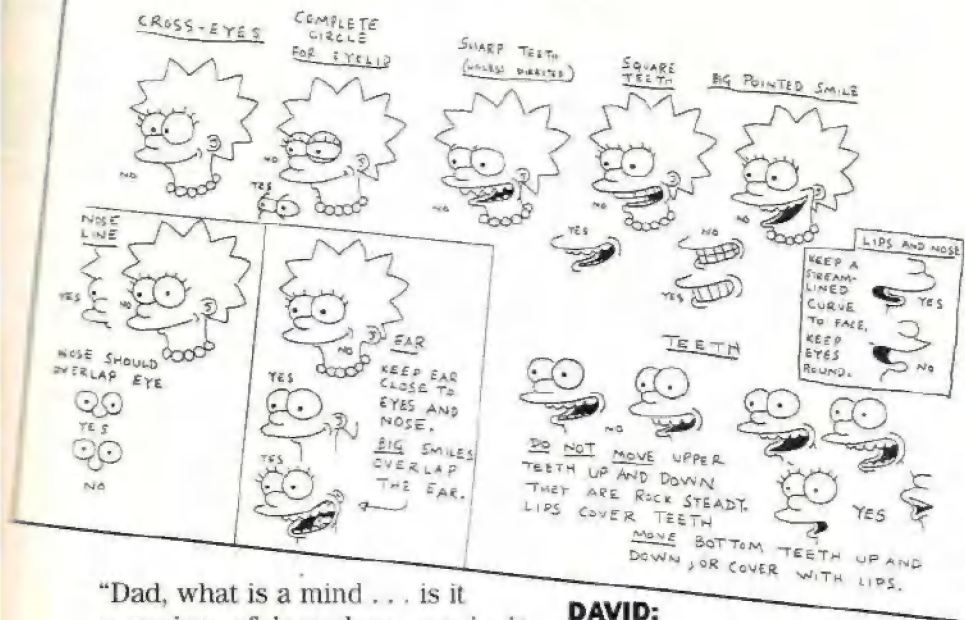
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SIMPSON No-No's

POINTERS FOR THE HEAD



How Not to Draw The Simpsons: Model sheets, like the one shown on the left for Lisa, drawn by Wes Archer in 1989, show animators what to avoid when drawing the Simpsons. Everything is spelled out for the artists—like, the Simpsons never have sharp or square teeth and never, ever cross their eyes.

"Dad, what is a mind... is it a series of impulses, or is it something more tangible?" As he developed, Bart became more mischievous.

S: How has he changed visually?

DAVID: We used to have a war over how many spikes of hair he'd have. First it was 13, then Wes drew seven.

WES: So we compromised on nine or ten. Lisa used to have a billion points on her head and her skirt.

S: Marge's hair is the real phenomenon.

DAVID: When we were first drawing Marge, we kept making her hair taller and taller because it was such a riot having it bounce against doorways. Then it got a little out of control and we cut it down to the tame beehive it is today.

S: I've heard Homer was first modeled after Walter Matthau.

DAVID:

He was, in that scruffy-faced, bulbous kind of way. But really, Homer is like an older version of Bart, visually and character-wise. The funny thing is, he's supposed to be setting an example for Bart, but he always says stuff like, (in his Homer voice) "Son, being popular is the most important thing in the world."

WES: Homer used to be thinner

"Bart's first line ever was, 'Dad, what is a mind... is it a series of impulses, or is it something more tangible?'"

but we added a paunch. We simplified his head to more of a Charlie Brown style, but he's always had those croquet hooks for hair.

DAVID: [Simpson's creator] Matt [Groening]'s style was sort of flat, because his medium was different. We had to give dimensionality and movement to the characters. The characters are pretty geometric—like Homer's Ping-Pong ball eyes.

WES: More like softball eyes.

S: How do you translate character personalities into design?

DAVID: Our goal was to develop a style of animation, of motion, that conveyed Matt's sense of the bizarre—the quirkiness of his characters. His style really goes against the norm. The Simpsons are hyper and impulsive, so we made the animation follow that.

S: How so?

DAVID: When they move, their arms flail around. Their mouths are all over the place. There are at least 12 to 15 drawings for every expression.

Bart, Is That You?: The basic blank-mouthed Bart portrait undergoes strange transformations at the hands of various animators.



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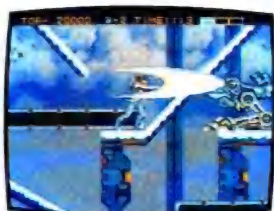


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S: Why aren't the Simpsons flesh-toned?

WES: The color stylist decided one day that Bart should be yellow. Matt said, "This is weird. I like it," so it stayed. Flesh color wouldn't work because there'd be no separation between their head and hair. Plus, the loud colors make their world surreal.

S: Where do the guest characters, like Marge's sisters, come from?

DAVID: The sisters are a squashed down version of Marge. So I took Marge's face and sort of crushed it up and gave the sisters the famous Marge hair. Characters mostly come from people we actually know. Matt named Marge and Homer after his own parents.

S: Any others?

WES: Homer's boss, Burns, went through a lot of design work. He's basically a praying mantis. He's a human bug. The voice also helps a lot with design. We've had some great actors do guest voices: Cloris Leachman, Danny DeVito, James Earl Jones, who was also Darth Vader. Once we hear a

character's voice, which we get on tape before we start to create the visuals for an episode, it helps us shape their look.

DAVID: Oh, we based Herman, the one-armed soldier of fortune, on the guy who actually wrote that script. We also take a lot of our cues from Matt's "Life in Hell" drawings.

S: There are people who like to watch the show for the changing visuals, like the different "I will not . . ." on the blackboard every week.

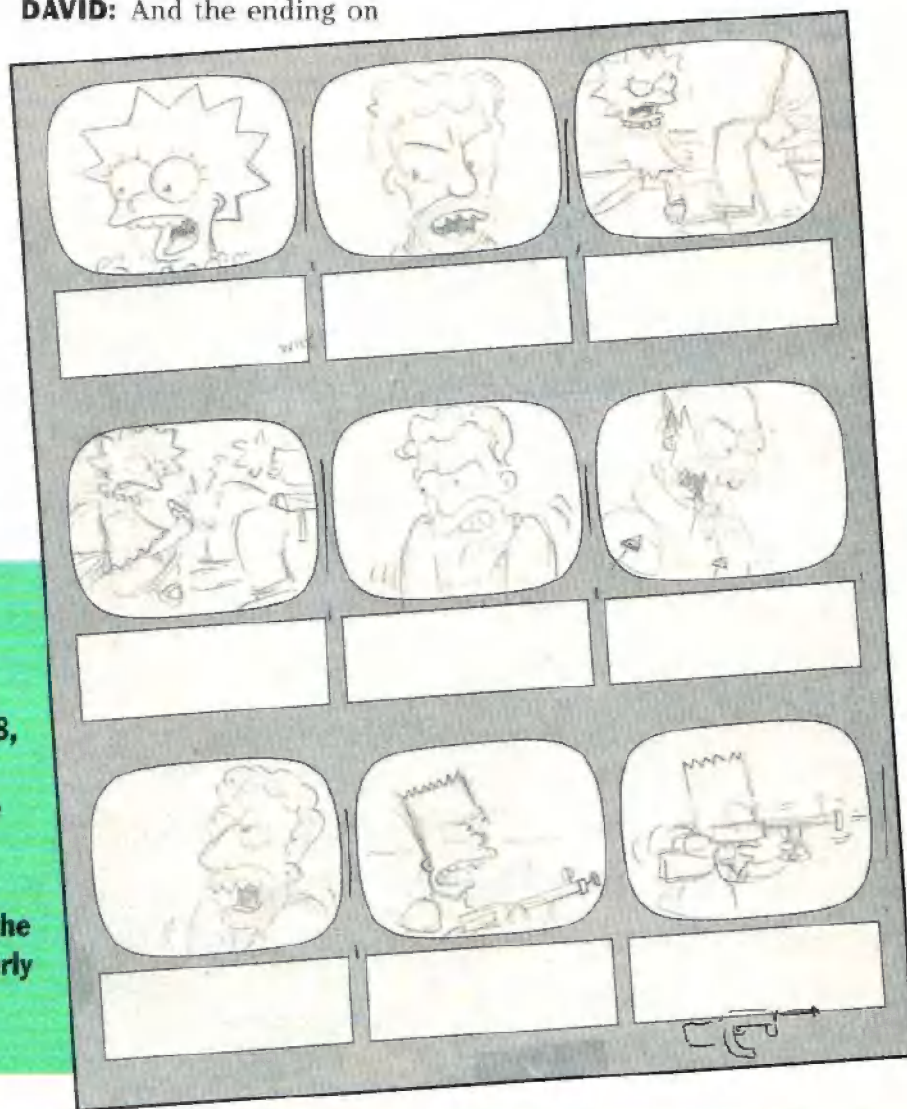
DAVID: And the ending on

the couch. The Homer shuffle. The couch breaking through the floor. My favorite was the one with no couch at all.

WES: There are artists who do nothing but backgrounds. The street scenes. The pictures behind the principal's head in "Bart the Genius."

S: You use some strange angles in the series.

DAVID: In every episode there's at least one reference to a classic movie, like *The Graduate*. We also did the shower scene from



Let Go Of Your Anger: Storyboards, like the one on the right, drawn by David Silverman in 1988, when the Simpsons were part of *The Tracey Ullman Show*, give the artists the chance to plan the visuals for an episode, including the characters' expressions and the camera angles that will most clearly show the action.



Look Out, Man: These three animation drawings, by David Silverman, show the Bartman in action. From here, another artist will draw the steps between each of these drawings, with Bart's arm moved just a little from one drawing to the next.



Psycho shot for shot. One episode's based on *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*.

WES: The baseball episode with the Springfield Isotopes was a spin-off from *Pride of The Yankees*. We even went from color to black-and-white in one sequence.

DAVID: It's our way of subversively promoting culture (*laughs*).

S: What's something a *Simpsons* character would never do?

WES: They never think evil thoughts.

DAVID: They *never* cross their eyes. They look wall-eyed. What's cool about the characters is that their eyes make them look like a couple of neurons aren't quite firing—like they're partly living in the clouds, in their own *Simpsons* universe.

WES: Homer never hits Bart. He chokes him, but Bart chokes him back (*laughs*). You have to understand the way people act to draw *The Simpsons*. It's the comedy of how people really act, the stupid things they actually do.

Not the comedy of

something falling on someone's head.

S: So it takes a certain *Simpsons* mentality to draw the show.

WES: I remember erasing animators' drawings left and right in the beginning. They had Lisa and Bart's tongues wagging out of their mouths. They didn't trust the lines of dialogue, so they made goofy faces and gestures to tell the joke.

S: Where do you get story ideas?

DAVID: There's a bulletin board with at least 50 ideas taped up. "Bart goes to a rock concert." "Bart goes to camp."

WES: We get tons of viewer mail with funny ideas. We got a hila-

rious

letter from a girl who wrote, "How about Bart getting caught in an elevator or the sewer, or getting a girlfriend?"

S: Any tips for future animators?

WES: Draw as much as possible and see tons of movies. That's where we get ideas for absurd expressions and movement. And listen to all different kinds of music; it's good for determining timing. Always consider that your characters are moving in three dimensions.

DAVID: Definitely. For instance, it takes four drawings to have Homer throw his arms up in the air fast, but maybe eight or ten drawings to have him put his hand on his head and shake it. It's a lot of work—six months and over 100 people just to do *one* show. It's also important to look at paintings, to see where an artist puts people and objects in a frame, and how that makes them more or less important. Wes and I studied art till our heads practically popped off.

—Holly Macfee

"Our goal was to develop a style of animation that conveyed Matt's sense of the bizarre."



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DRAW BART'S MOUTH!

This mouthless Bart, used by animators to experiment with different ways to make Bart's mouth move, was put up on a wall in the studios last year. As seen on the previous pages, it seems as if every *Simpsons* artist has since taken a turn or two filling in the blank with some, uh, rather original ideas.

Now it's your turn. So get your right brain in gear, start drawing and send us your efforts. (If you copy this page, you can send several.) We'll print some of your submissions in a subsequent issue. And that's about it. We're not giving away any valuable prizes, and you've already got a *Simpsons* T-shirt. We are simply offering the fleeting fame of maybe having your drawing in a big-time magazine. But think how proud your mother will be!

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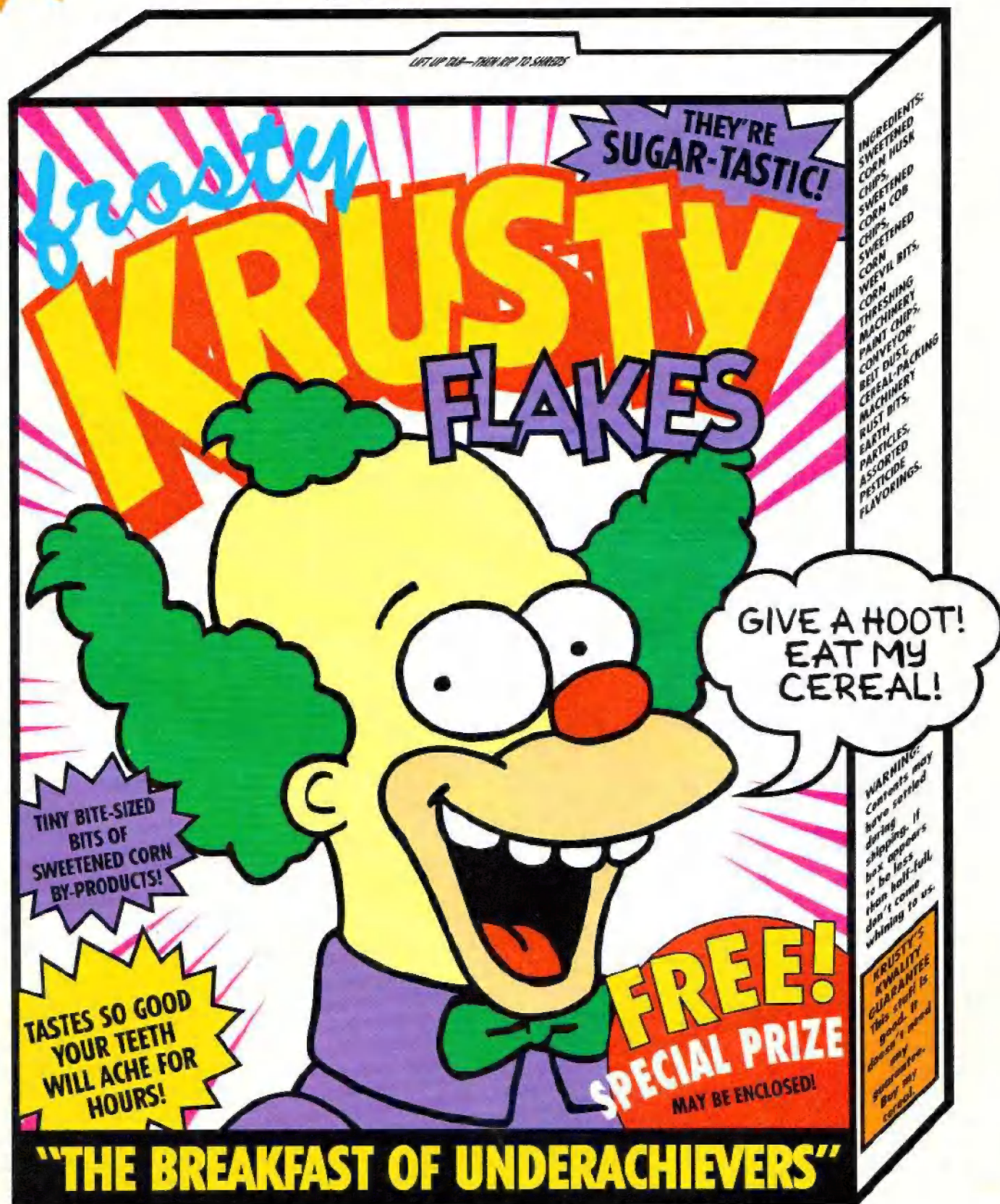


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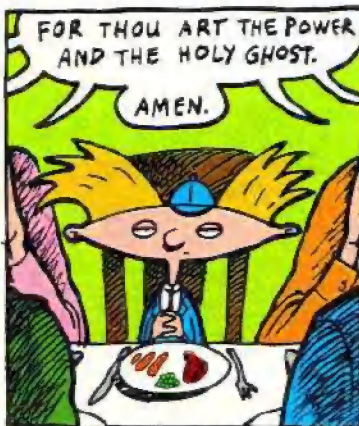
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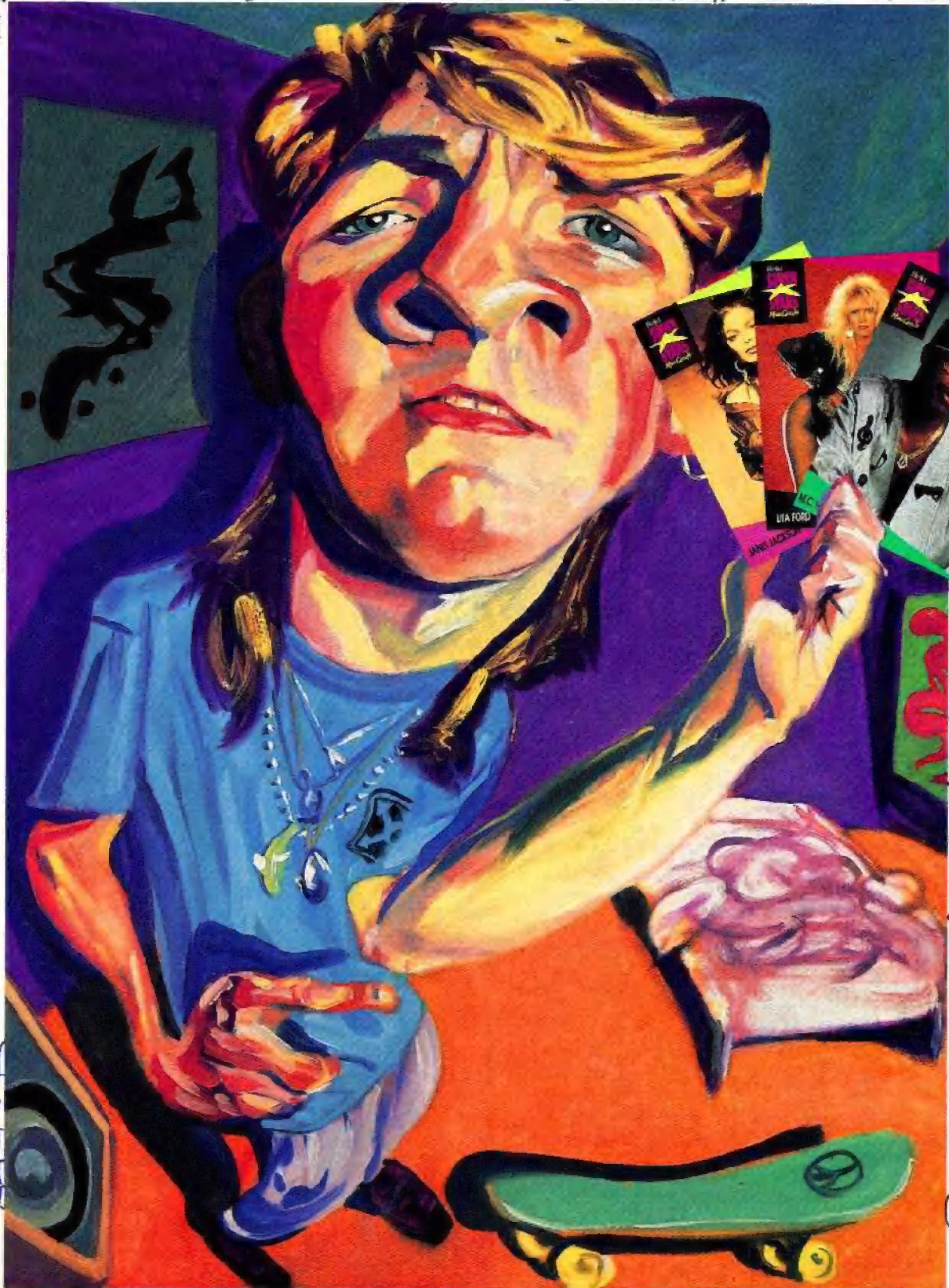
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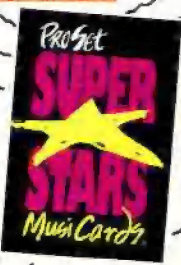
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BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

MORONS IN THE BACK ROW

PERSIST IN MISGUIDED BELIEF
THAT THEY ARE INVISIBLE

THE BRAINIAC

A NEARBY SEAT IS A BIG PLUS
AT EXAM TIME

WHATSISNAME

NEVER SPEAKS UP, NEVER ACTS
UP—WHO IS HE, ANYWAY?

THE PERKY GIRL

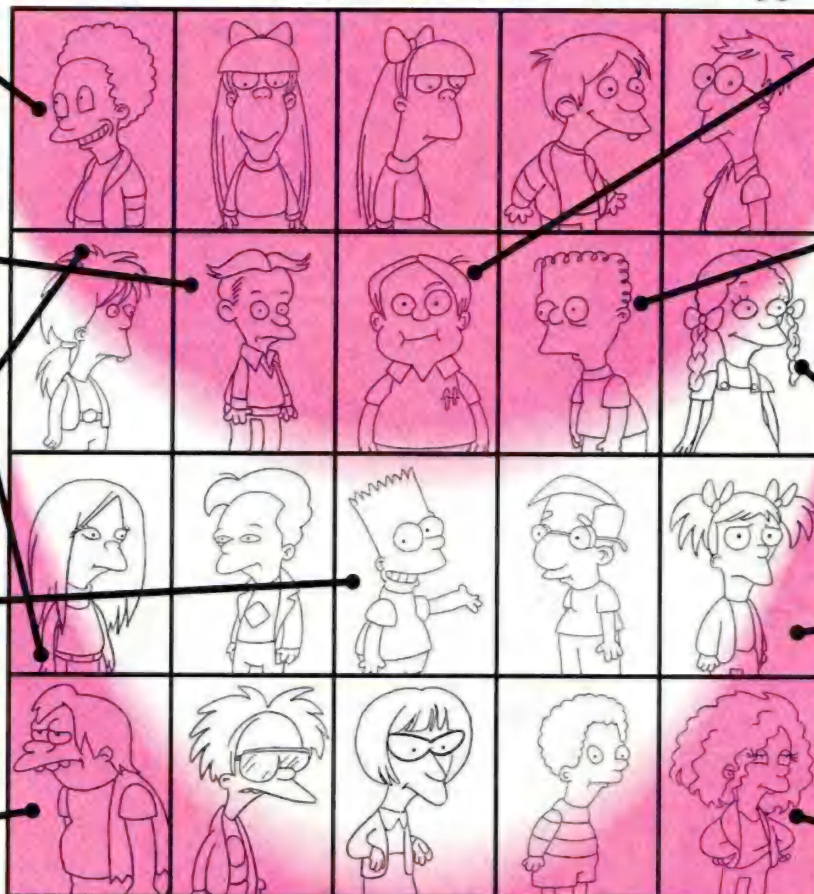
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THE MALCONTENT

IS THIS YOU?

THE SMUG ONES

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THEY'LL STILL BE A
SOURCE OF IRRITATION

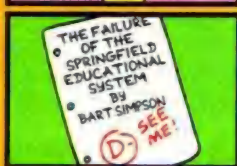


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SIDE EFFECTS



IF YOU ARE CAUGHT:

- ACT SHOCKED, SPEECHLESS, AND HURT (THIS WILL BUY YOU TIME TO THINK UP A BETTER EXCUSE)
- TRY THE OLD RELIABLE: "IDIDN'TDOIT NOBODYSAWMEDOITYOUCAN'TPROVE ANYTHING"
- CONFESS IMMEDIATELY—THIS WILL CONFUSE AND UNBALANCE YOUR OPPONENT

TRY THIS EXTRA-CREDIT BRAINTEASER!

Q: Is school a valuable opportunity for intellectual stimulation and growth, or just a way to get you out of your parents' hair for 12 years?

A: Yes.



GUERRILLA STRATEGIES

SCIENTIFIC FACT!

TIME ACTUALLY DOES PASS MUCH MORE QUICKLY ON WEEKENDS THAN DURING SCHOOL DAYS!

HERE ARE SEVERAL FIELD-TESTED WAYS TO COPE WITH THIS WEIRD TEMPORAL PHENOMENON

DOODLE

EASY, FUN, AND ARTISTICALLY SATISFYING. ADDED BENEFIT: TEACHER MAY ACTUALLY THINK YOU ARE WORKING

USE SIGN LANGUAGE

HINT: WORKS BEST WHEN TEACHER'S BACK IS TURNED

PASS NOTES

CAUTION: ALTHOUGH IT MAY LOOK COOL IN OLD MOVIES, SWALLOWING A NOTE WHEN CAUGHT IS PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA

GO TO THE REST ROOM

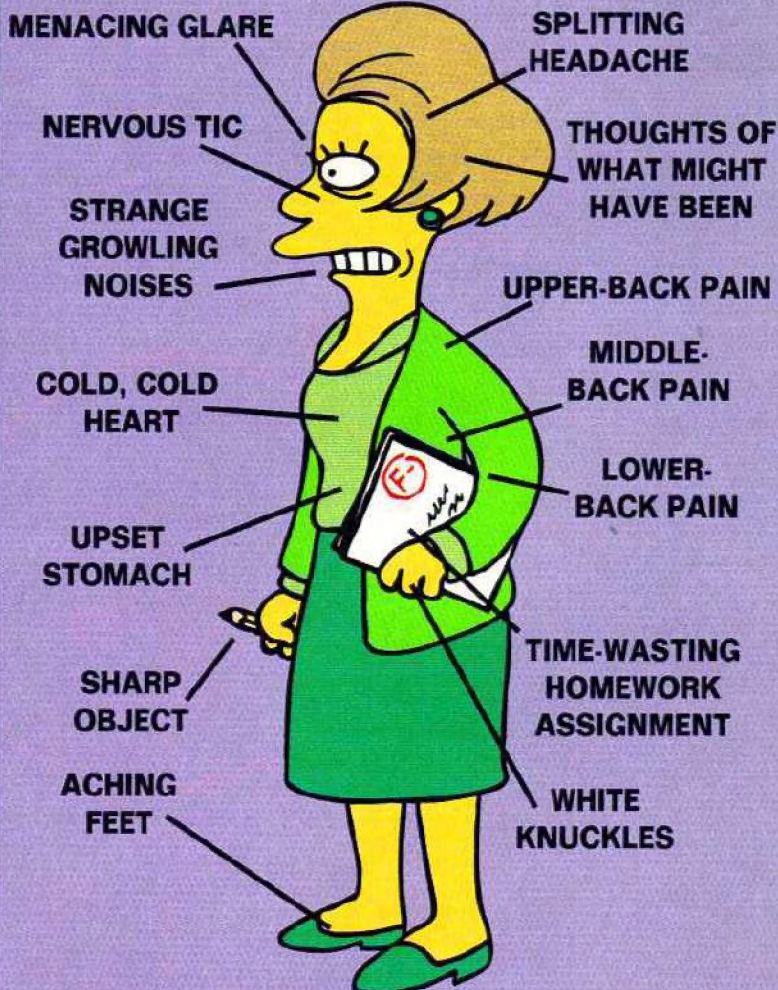
10 MINUTES PER TRIP x
6 CLASSES PER DAY =
25 FEWER DAYS OF CLASS
PER YEAR

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

LISTEN TO THE TEACHER—
YOU COULD POSSIBLY LEARN
SOMETHING INTERESTING

Know Your Enemy: THE TEACHER

Ticking Time Bomb of the Classroom



REMEMBER: YOU WILL EVENTUALLY GRADUATE* AND GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, BUT YOUR TEACHER IS STUCK HERE PERMANENTLY. (THIS MAY EXPLAIN WHY HE OR SHE GETS A MITE TESTY AT TIMES.)

*BE SURE YOU DO

THINGS TEACHERS DON'T WANT TO HEAR WHEN THEY SAY, "ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?"

"Will this be on the test?"

"Was that A.D. or B.C.?"

"May I go to the bathroom?"

"Could you repeat that?"

FIGHTING BACK

A THREE-STEP APPROACH

- 1 TAKE CAREFUL NOTES ON ALL THE BORING, STUPID, AND UNFAIR THINGS GOING ON AROUND YOU
- 2 WAIT 20 YEARS
- 3 USE NOTES AS BASIS FOR WILDLY SUCCESSFUL TV SERIES

AND IF YOU DO SURVIVE SCHOOL, THEN WHAT? HERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

WHAT DOES MY FUTURE HOLD?

A SIMPLE QUIZ • NO STUDYING • NO CHEATING

1. When you are picked on by the school bully, you:

- A. Tell the principal
- B. Tell the teacher
- C. Hide in your locker
- D. Attempt to distract him with witty repartee

2. When the teacher asks if you have your homework, you:

- A. Say: "Yes, ma'am, and I'd like to say that I found the subject quite fascinating and stimulating"
- B. Say: "The dog ate it"
- C. Say: "Homework? What homework?"
- D. Attempt to distract her with witty repartee

3. When called upon to read your book report, you:

- A. Deliver a stirring account of Lee Iacocca's autobiography
- B. Give a competent synopsis of *Black Beauty*
- C. Summarize the latest issue of *Radioactive Man*
- D. Bluff your way through *Treasure Island* attempt to distract with witty repartee

SCORING

Count 4 points for each A answer, 3 for each B, 2 for each C, and 1 for each D

Now find your point total in the list below to discover your future career:

12 POINTS

Politician, media figure, corporate executive, school principal

9-11 POINTS

Mid-level bureaucrat, IRS agent, school teacher

4-8 POINTS

Assistant manager of fast-food franchise, car salesman, vice president of the United States

0-3 POINTS

Publishers' Clearinghouse Sweepstakes entrant, daytime TV viewer, embittered struggling artist

BART'S BOTTOM 40

1. LISA'S SAXOPHONE
2. VEGETABLES THAT DON'T FLY WELL OFF YOUR SPOON
3. WRINKLED OLD GROWNUPS - - I HOPE I NEVER BECOME ONE
4. THE CHEAP LOUSY PRIZES THEY GIVE AWAY IN BOXES OF FROSTY KRUSTY FLAKES
5. HAVING NIGHTMARES THAT I'M A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK
6. BEING CAUGHT RED-HANDED
7. THE HARDENED CRUST ON THE TOP OF MOM'S CASSEROLES
8. THE GOOEY STUFF UNDERNEATH THE HARDENED CRUST ON THE TOP OF MOM'S CASSEROLES
9. PRINCIPAL SKINNER'S SPECIAL FILE ON ME
10. THE "NO DRAWING ON THE WALL" RULE
11. THE FACT THAT OTTO HARDLY EVER LETS ME DRIVE THE SCHOOL BUS
12. CREAMED CORN
13. PARENTS WHO HAVE SIGNATURES THAT ARE REALLY HARD TO FORGE
14. ACCIDENTALLY FEELING GUM STUCK UNDERNEATH A RESTAURANT TABLE
15. SUCKING ON YOUR PEN IN SCHOOL AND HAVING YOUR MOUTH FILL UP WITH INK
16. NAMBY-PAMBY G-RATED MOVIES
17. DAD'S SNORING THAT YOU CAN HEAR THROUGH THE WALL EVEN WITH A PILLOW COVERING YOUR HEAD
18. STORIES WITH MORALS AT THE END
19. CARTOONS WITH NO FUN VIOLENCE AND PAIN
20. CARTOONS WHERE THEY RUN PAST THE SAME LAMP AND TABLE A ZILLION TIMES
21. THE STRAWBERRY AND VANILLA PARTS OF NEOPOLITAN ICE CREAM
22. GAS STATION RESTROOMS
23. MAKING BAD WORDS WITH MY ALPHABET SOUP AND HAVING LISA TELL ME THEY'RE MISSPELLED
24. ACCIDENTALLY DRINKING OUT OF THE GLASS WHERE GRANDPA KEEPS HIS FALSE TEETH
25. THE DIFFICULTY OF LOADING WATER BALLOONS WITH MAPLE SYRUP
26. SUGARLESS ANYTHING
27. BEING TRIED IN COURT AS AN ADULT
28. VENGEFUL BARBERS
29. THE HAUNTING THOUGHT THAT SIDESHOW BOB WILL GET OUT OF JAIL SOMEDAY
30. RIP-OFF CHOCOLATE BUNNIES THAT ARE HOLLOW INSIDE
31. WAR. I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE ANY WARS UNTIL I CAN START ONE MYSELF
32. PHLEGM (ALSO ON MY TOP 40 LIST)
33. WHEN MOM SAYS "IF ALL YOUR FRIENDS JUMPED OFF THE BRIDGE, WOULD YOU JUMP TOO?"
34. CARTOONS WITH REDEEMING SOCIAL MESSAGES
35. THE NONEDIBLE DECORATIONS ON BIRTHDAY CAKES THAT YOU ACCIDENTALLY TRY TO EAT
36. BRUSSELS SPROUTS
37. FORGETTING ABOUT THE CANDY BAR YOU PUT IN YOUR PANTS POCKET ON A REALLY HOT DAY
38. SWIMMING POOL BELLY-FLOPS THAT BOTH HURT AND LOOK DUMB
39. THE BOTTOMS OF YOUR SNEAKERS AFTER YOU COME OUT OF A PETTING ZOO
40. BEING AN "UNDERACHIEVER" - - TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT THE WORD MEANS

THE SIMPSONS™ **BART VS. THE SPACE MUTANTS**



Hello, fellow humans!
Bartholomew J. Simpson
here, with a big secret:

Space mutants are invading Springfield!

Yours truly is the only one who can see 'em—so it's
up to me to stop 'em. I've gotta spraypaint things, get radical on my skateboard, and in general
behave like a nuisance, man. It's a good thing I've got the rest of the Simpsons to help me out.

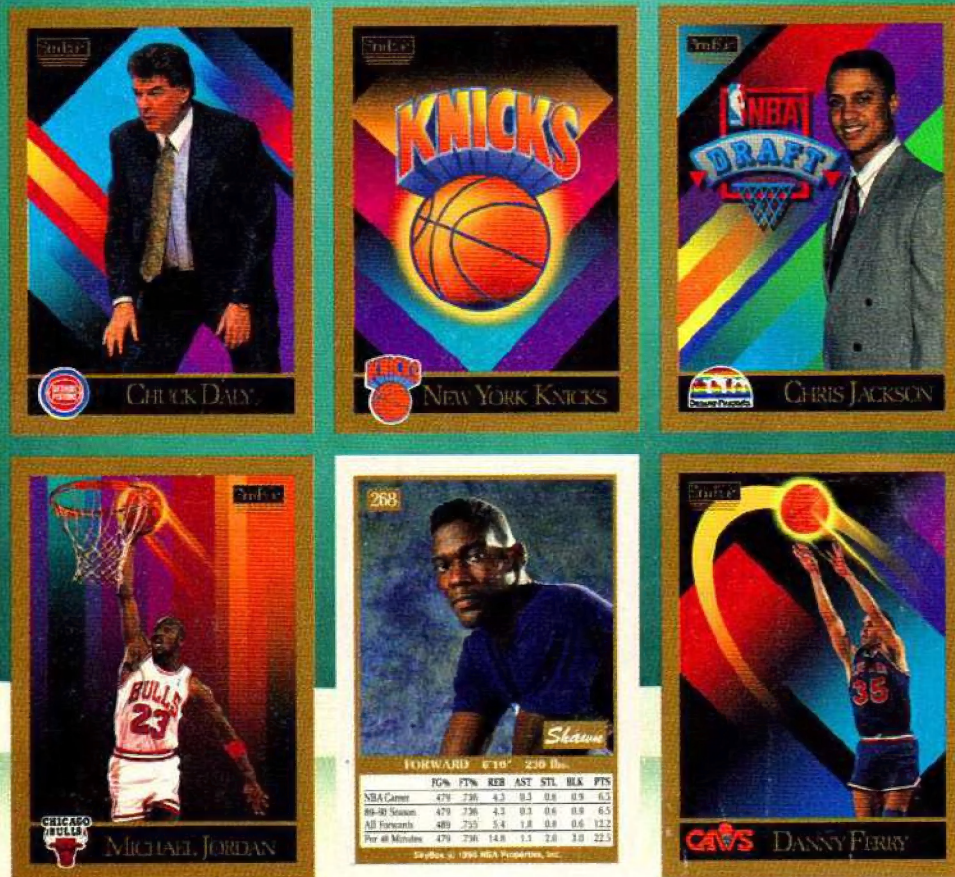
So if you're a decent person, a patriot, save the Earth! ***Buy this game!***



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